are made, and regulations are issued. Under the MMPA, the term ''taking'' means to harass, hunt, capture or kill or to attempt to harass, hunt, capture or kill marine mammals.

Permission may be granted for periods up to 5 years if the Secretary of Commerce finds, after notification and opportunity for public comment, that the taking will have a negligible impact on the species or stock(s) of marine mammals and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of the species or stock(s) for subsistence uses. In addition, NMFS must prescribe regulations that include permissible methods of taking and other means effecting the least practicable adverse impact on the species and its habitat, and on the availability of the species for subsistence uses, paying particular attention to rookeries, mating grounds and areas of similar significance. The regulations must include requirements pertaining to the monitoring and reporting of such taking. Regulations governing the taking of ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic activities were published on January 13, 1993 (58 FR 4091) and remain in effect until December 31, 1997.

Summary of Requests

NMFS received requests for letters of authorization on the dates specified from (1) BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., 900 East Benson Blvd. P.O. Box 196612, Anchorage, AK 99519–6612 (September 11, 1995); (2) Geco-Prakla, 500 W. International Airport Road, Anchorage, AK 99518 (October 11, 1995) and (3) Western Geophysical/Western Atlas International, Inc. 351 E. International Airport Road, Anchorage, AK 99518–1299 (November 10, 1995). All letters request a take by harassment of a small number of ringed seals incidental to on-ice seismic work in the Beaufort Sea, AK.

Issuance of these letters of authorization is based on findings that the total takings will have a negligible impact on the ringed seal species or stock and will not have an unmitigable adverse impact on the availability of this species for subsistence uses.

Dated: December 1, 1995.

William W. Fox, Jr.,

Director, Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95–30379 Filed 12–12–95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–22–F

National Weather Service; Automated Surface Observing System

SUBJECT: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The National Weather Service (NWS) implemented the Supplemental Data Program effective October 1, 1995. This program supplements data provided by the Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS). Observations produced through the Supplementary Data Program are transmitted separately from the ASOS operations and provide data to support hydrometeorological operations and climatological applications. This notice explains the reasons for the shift in reporting methods and describes how to obtain and interpret hydrometeorological information that was previously available in the surface aviation observation (SAO) format.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1995.

ADDRESSES: Requests for information should be sent to Steve Pritchett, NWS, Office of Systems Operations, 1325 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 20910 or through electronic mail at suppdata @smtpgate.ssmc.noaa.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Steve Pritchett at 301–713–1792.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As part of the NWS modernization, the NWS is undergoing a major shift in the methods used to observe and report surface weather information.

The NWS has developed and is installing ASOS to automate certain observing functions, thereby taking advantage of advances in sensor and microprocessor technology. At approximately 900 airports in the United States during the 1990s, the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Transportation, and Defense are deploying ASOS to support aviation operations and weather forecasting and warnings, as well as general needs of the hydrometeorological, climatological, and meteorological research communities.

ASOS will provide greatly expanded coverage (locations and observing hours), objective observations, a continuous weather watch, and improved operating efficiency. ASOS, when integrated with advances in remote sensing and weather information processing systems, is expected to contribute to improved warning and forecast services. ASOS will perform the basic observing functions necessary to generate a SAO. However, because some weather parameters observed manually today will not initially be observed by ASOS, the NWS is introducing two new classes of observations to the array of meteorological surface observations: the supplementary data observation (SDO) and the supplementary climate data (SCD).

Supplementary observations are *not* appended to the ASOS observation; rather, they are disseminated as separate messages. The NWS will disseminate these reports to a variety of Federal and non-Federal users of NWS data. Supplementary data will be made available through NWS communication systems such as Family of Services, NOAA Weather Wire, and various computer and commercial vendor services.

Surface observational data in the ASOS era will continue to come from many sources. ASOS, along with complementary data derived from remote sensing technologies, such as statellites, will form the backbone of the surface observing network (SAO) system. Surface data from over 20,000 automatic and manual hydrometerological sites, including cooperative and hydrologic networks, will continue to play an important role in NWS operational forecast programs. They comprise the climatological data bases and supply information to users who currently rely on surface observations from airports, as well as for non-aviation related information.

The NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will issue these new supplemtary data reports. The SDOs will provide significant, event-driven observations primarily intended to support weather forecasting and general hydrometeorological needs. Elements may be reported in SDOs on an ''as-observed'' basis and do not imply a continuous or basic weather watch. SDOs will not generally include elements that are in augmented ASOS observations from that location.

The SCD reports may provide routinely scheduled observations useful for climatological applications, as well as hydrometeorological operations. SCDs are routinely issued at designated hours at about the same time as the recorded surface observation (note: the SDOs are issued on an event basis, which may fall ''on the hour'' only by chance).

Most offices issuing SCDs and SDOs will not issue the full suite of SCD/SDO elements. There will be some variation among individual offices in the elements they report. Elements reported in SCDs will generally not be reported in SDOs. Exceptions are: (1) precipitation type and intensity reported in SCDs may also be reported in SDOs when considered significant by the on-site observer, and (2) volcanic ash reported in SCDs will also be reported in SDOs. Observations of volcanic eruptions and volcanic ash when first noted and severe weather (severe thunderstorms and tornadic

activity) when first observed may be included in weather warnings and statements issued by cognizant NWS offices rather than in supplementary data reports. The same elements may be reported in both SDO's and aviation observations from some sites (see enclosures).

In the future, non-Federal observers (volunteers, Cooperative Observers, etc.) are expected to participate as members of the supplementary data network. Their reports will focus on snow depth, snowfall amount, hail and ice pellet occurrences. It is expected that a subset of volunteer observers will report water equivalent of snow on the ground.

Susan F. Zevin,

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Operations.

Report Format and Content

The information in supplementary data reports will follow the syntax and abbreviations used in Federal Meteorological Handbook Number 1 for Surface Observations (FMH–1). (FMH–2 for synoptic cloud reports) where practical. Supplementary data reports differ from surface aviation observations in the following ways:

- Only a limited set of observed elements is included in supplementary data reports. A given supplementary report may contain one or several elements.
- Supplementary data reports are not issued on an hourly basis. Time-scheduled SCDs are issued at main synoptic hours or at other designated hours of the day depending on the variable(s) being reported. Event-driven SDOs are issued when a significant phenomenon is first observed. A follow-up ''termination'' SDO will be issued after the cessation of certain events.
- Some SDOs will contain a ''/'', solidus remarks separator. The purpose of the remarks separator is to help computer decoders differentiate between decodable (parsable) remarks and remarks not readily amendable to decoding. SCDs will *not* inclde the ''/'' remarks separator because all remarks in SCDs are decodable.

Supplementary data reports are encoded as follows:

SID—TYPE—(COR—)TIME—WX/—Decodable RMKS—/—Other RMKS (''—'' indicates a required space and ''/'' indicates a required solidus. The ''/'' will appear in an observation if and only if one or more ''WX'' elements are reported *and* are followed by remarks. The ''/'' remarks separator will appear in an SDO, only if, the SDO contains both decodable *and* noncodable remarks.

SID—Station identifier (3 to 5 alphanumeric characters).

TYPE—Type of observation (either SCD or SDO). If the observation is a correction to a previously disseminated SCD or SDO, the contraction COR will follow the type of observation (in which case the time (TIME) will be the time of the observation being corrected).

TIME—Time of observation in hours and minutes UTC [0000 * * * 2359].

WX—Weather and/or obstructions to vision. This field will be from 1 to 15 characters in length including the precipitation intensity symbol (−,+). The elements to be reported in the ''WX'' field are given in Table 1 of this guide. Contractions for precipitation types are given in Table 2; contractions for obstructions to vision are in Table 3.

Decodable RMKS, Other RMKS—Remarks are separated from the ''WX'' group with a solidus and a space. If no ''WX'' is reported, the remarks are preceded with a space after the time (TIME) element.

SCD remarks are encoded in the following order:

$8NN_hC_LhC_MC_H$—Total cloud cover and synoptic cloud types

931nnn—Depth of new snow (snowfall)

933RRR—Water equivalent of snow on the ground

4/sss—Depth of snow on ground

98xxx—Duration of sunshine

$7R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}$—Calendar day total precipitation (from designated sites)

$4s_nT_xT_xT_xs_nT_nT_nT_n$—Calendar day maximum and minimum temperature (from designated sites)

NIL—Nothing to report

SDO remarks are encoded in the following order:

Temination reports for ''WX'' elements (e.g., END IP)

SNOINCR x/x—Snow increasing rapidly

HLSTO x—Size of largest hailstone observed

'' / '' remarks separator

Other SDO remarks when considered significant by the on-site staff:

Local variation in visibility (e.g., VSBY N2; F BANK N–E2) (designated stations)

Virga—Precipitation evaporating before reaching ground (designated stations)

Precipitation not at station (e.g., RWU SW; SU OVR MTNS N) (designated stations)

Clouds above 12,000 feet (types and/or layers) (designated stations)

Distant clouds obscuring mountains (designated stations)

Other meteorological information considered significant, such as blowing volcanic ash

The SDO ''WX'' group, remarks of snow increasing rapidly (SNOINCR), hailstorms (HLSTO), and termination reports for ''WX'' elements are considered decodable.

Initiation *and* termination reports will be issued for selected ''WX'' elements (those listed in Table 2 of this guide). An exception is hail, for which only an initiation report will be issued. Termination reports will be issued for any weather and/or obstructions to vision previously reported in the ''WX'' field of an SDO when the event is determined to have ended. Termination reports are not required for information reported in SDO remarks unless designated by NWS regional headquarters.

- The initiation report for a ''WX'' element is implicit in the ''WX'' field (e.g., ''MCI SDO 1325 BS'' is an initiation report for blowing snow). The initiation report for other significant events carries the information in the SDO remarks section (e.g., ''MCI SDO 1325 BD/ RWU SW'' may be an initiation report for distant rain showers. The blowing dust, previously reported, continues).
- Termination reports contain the key word ''END'' followed by a space and a description of the event which ended. All termination information, even for a ''WX'' element, is considered to be in the remarks category. Termination information for ''WX'' elements precedes any '' / '' remarks separator (e.g., ''MCI SDO 1445 END BD / END RWU SW'').
- Termination reports for items listed under ''other SDO remarks when considered significant by the on-site staff'' can have several meanings: (1) the event ended, (2) the event is no longer considered significant, but it may still exist, or (3) because of darkness, it is not possible to determine if the event still exists.

Plain language remarks may at times be necessary to clarify changing local conditions. For example, if a fog bank previously reported to the north (e.g., ''ANC SDO 1205 F BANK N2'') moves over the airport, ''ANC SDO 1330 F BANK MOVD OVR ARPT'' might be subsequently reported.

Location of phenomena within 10 miles of the station will be reported as ''VCNTY STN,'' followed by the direction from the station. Phenomena between 10 and 30 miles of the station will be located by direction from the station. Phenomena beyond 30 miles will be reported as ''DSNT,'' followed by the direction from the station.

If there are no coded remarks or weather to report in a scheduled SCD,

the SCD will be transmitted with ''NIL'' (e.g., ''PHL SC 1758 NIL'').

Table 1 gives the type of supplementary information reported, the category of the supplementary data report, criteria for reporting, and type of site making the report. It also gives the syntax of the element and one or more examples. Examples of complete supplementary data reports are given in the back of this guide. Except where explicitly stated otherwise, the ''WFO'' column refers to all WFOs, whether or not they have a collocated ASOS. The ''Other NWS Office'' column refers to NWS staffed or manual observing sites with responsibility for supplementary data reporting. This table represents the initial supplementary data reporting configuration by office type (augmented elements are excluded).

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
WX—Weather and/or obstructions to vision. —All precipitation types and intensities. —Volcanic ash	.....	X ..... Volcanic ash will not be included in SCDs from sites with a collocated ASOS.	at 6-hrly synoptic times (00, 06, 12, and 18 UTC) and staff is available.	X	Designated Stations.	*Format:* Table 2 gives contractions for precipitation types; Table 3 gives contractions for obstructions to vision. *Where:* ''WX'' refers to weather and obstructions to vision. Weather refers to precipitation and tornadoes. Obstructions to vision refer to phenomena that reduce visibility but are not precipitation. Weather and obstruction to vision elements included in SCDs and SDOs are given in the ''Element'' column to the left. *Examples:* VOLCANIC ASH; IF; HLSTO ¼; IP-: END VOLCANIC ASH; END IF *Comments:* Visibility specified by FMH-1 for qualifying intensity of snow and drizzle may not be well resolved at certain WFOs without a collocated ASOS. Consequently, snow and drizzle intensities reported by non-ASOS WFOs must be considered to be estimates. A follow-up ''termination'' SDO will be issued upon termination of the event (with the exception of hail). The termination SDO will give the event preceded by the key world ''END.'' Volcanic ash will not be reported in supplementary data originating from sites which have collocated ASOS. Volcanic ash is appended directly to the ASOS observations at those sites. Visibility will not be a factor in reporting ''VOLCANIC ASH'' as present weather (WX) in an SDO. Any observed ''VOLCANIC ASH'' will be reported.

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA—Continued

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
WX—Weather and/or obstructions to vision. —Ice pellets ... —Volcanic ash —Other nonaugmented elements when considered significant by the on-site staff (ice crystals, ice fog, smoke, blowing snow, blowing sand, blowing dust, and blowing spray).	X ..... Volcanic ash will not be included in SDOs from sites with a collocated ASOS.	.....	when observed and staff is available.	X	Designated stations.	
Daily total sunshine duration.	.....	X	Once daily at 08 UTC. If the station is closed at 08 UTC, the ''98xxx'' group will be reported in the first 6-hrly observation after opening. Equipment must be available.	Reported at official NWS sunshine-duration reporting sites. These sites may be moved as required.	.....	*Format:* 98xxx. *Where:* ''98'' is the code group indicator and ''xxx'' gives the total minutes of sunshine for the previous calendar day. ''xxx'' is encoded in hundreds, tens, and units. *Example:* 98096; 98000. *Interpretation:* 96 minutes of sunshine; 0 minutes of sunshine. *Missing data indicator:* 98///.
Calendar day total prescription accumulation (water equivalent).	.....	X	24-hour value once daily at 00 LST and staff is available.	Only reported by WFOs which do not have a collocated ASOS.	.....	*Format:* $7R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}$. *Where:* ''7'' is the code group indicator; $R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}R_{24}$ gives precipitation amount encoded in tens, units, tenths, and hundredths of inches. *Example:* 70125. *Interpretation:* 1.25 inches of precipitation (water equivalent) in the preceding 24 hours. *Missing data indicator:* 7////. *Comment:* Note that in the SCD the ''7'' group refers to a 24-hr precip total ending at midnight LST whereas the ''7'' group in the remarks of an ASOS observation or a manual surface observation refers to a 24-hr precip total ending at 12 UTC.
Calendar day maximum and minimum temperatures.	.....	X	24-hour value once daily at 00 LST and staff is available.	Only reported by WFOs which do not have a collocated ASOS.	.....	*Format:* $4s_nT_xT_xT_xs_nT_nT_nT_n$. *Where:* ''4'' is the code group indicator; s_n gives sign of the data (''1'' for temperatures below 0°F, ''0'' for temperatures 0°F or higher); $T_xT_xT_x$ is the maximum temperature in whole degrees F; $T_nT_nT_n$ is the minimum temperature in whole degrees F. *Example:* 400700045. *Interpretation:* 24-hr max temperature of 70°F, 24-hr min temperature of 45°F. *Missing data indicator:* 4/////////.

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA—Continued

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
Snow increasing rapidly.	X	X	Hourly when snow depth increase equals or exceeds 0.5″/hr and staff is available.	Designated stations.	Designated stations.	*Format:* SNOINCR x/x. *Reference:* FMH–1 Table A3–88, 2.e modified to exclude the depth increase since the last 6-hrly report. *Where:* ''SNOINCR'' is the code group indicator. ''x/x'' gives the snow depth increase in the past hour/total depth of snow on the ground at time of observation, both of which are reported in whole inches. *Example:* SNOINCR 1/6. *Interpretation:* One inch depth increase in the past hour with 6 inches on the ground at time of observation.
Size of largest hailstone observed.	X	.....	when first observed and staff is available.	Designated stations.	Designated stations.	Format: HLSTOx. Where: ''HLSTO'' is the group indicator. ''x'' gives the diameter (in inches) of the largest hailstone observed. Hailstone size is reported in ¼ inch increments. If the hailstone size is less than ⅛ inch, it will be encoded as <¼. Example: HLSTO ½. Interpretation: The largest hailstone observed was ½'' in diameter.
Other Significant Weather Information						
Significant local variations in visibility.	X	.....	when observed and staff is available.	Reported at specific, currently staffed NWS observing sites which are determined to be especially problematic with respect to terrain, and multiple visibility sensors are not available or do not suffice.	.....	Format: Description and direction from station. Examples: VSBY N2; F Bank N–E2. Interpretation: (1) Visability to the north is 2 miles. (2) A fog bank exists north through east. Comment: Once reported, significant changes to ''local variations in visibility'' will be reported in updated SDO reports.
Virga	X	.....	when observed and staff is available..	Reported at specific, currently staffed NWS observing sites in mountainous areas lacking radar coverage which are determined to be especially problematic with respect to terrain.	.....	Format: ''VIRGA'' and direction from station. Example: VIRGA NW. Comment: Once reported, significant changes to ''virga'' will be reported in updated SDO reports, e.g., VIRGA VCNTY STN NW MOVG E.

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA—Continued

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
Precipitation not at the station.	X	.....	when observed and staff is available.	Reported at specific, currently staffed NWS observing sites in mountainous areas lacking radar coverage which are determined to be especially problematic with respect to terrain.	.....	Format: Type and intensity (or ''U'' if unknown) of precipitation and direction from station. Examples: RWU SW; SU OVR MTNS N. Comment: Once reported, significant changes to ''precipitation not at the station'' will be reported in updated SDO reports, e.g., RWU VCNTY STN SW MOVD NW.
Significant clouds above 12,000 feet AGL and significant cloud types.	X	.....	When observed and staff is available.	Reported at specific, currently staffed NWS observing sites in mountainous areas which are determined to be especially problematic with respect to terrain.	.....	*Format:* ''CLD LYR'' followed by one or more cloud base heights (generally estimated, hundreds of feet AGL) and amounts (SCT, BKN, or OVC). Ceiling designators (''E'' and ''M'') are not reported as this layer may not be the layer constituting a ceiling. Only significant cloud layers above 12,000 feet AGL are reported. Types of significant clouds associated with orographic features, such as ACSL and rotor clouds, may also be reported. *Example:* CLD LYR 140 OVC; ACSL VCNTY STN SW–W *Interpretation:* A significant overcast cloud layer based at 14,000 feet above ground level was observed. *Comment:* Once reported, significant changes to ''cloud layers above 12,000 feet'' and ''significant cloud types'' will be reported in updated SDO reports, e.g., CB W MOVD N.
Significant distant clouds obscuring mountains.	X	.....	When observed and staff is available.	Reported at specific, currently staffed NWS observing sites which are determined to be especially problematic with respect to terrain.	.....	*Format:* Description and direction from station. *Example:* CLD BASES OBSCG MTNS W. *Interpretation:* Cloud bases obscuring mountains to the west. *Comment:* Once reported, significant changes to ''distant clouds obscuring mountains'' will be reported in updated SDO reports.
Any other meteorological information when considered significant by the on-site staff.	X	.....	When observed and staff is available.	X	X	*Format:* Plain language using FMH–1 contractions where practical. *Comments:* Any significant weather information such as convective cloud types not covered above *may* be entered here if not included in an ASOS observation.

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA—Continued

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
Depth of new snow.	.....	X	At 6-hrly synoptic times (00, 06, 12, and 18 UTC) when any amount of snow has fallen in the past 6 hours and staff is available.	Designated stations.	Designated stations.	*Format:* 931nnn. *Where:* ''931'' is the code group indicator for the amount of solid precipitation (i.e., snow, snow pellets, snow grains, ice pellets, ice crystals, and hail) that fell in the past 6 hours, even if some or all of it melted. ''nnn'' gives the depth in the frozen state to the nearest tenth of an inch using a leading zero if less than 1 inch. Trace amounts are reported as 931000. *Example:* 931012. *Interpretation:* 1.2 inches of new snow fell in the past 6 hours. *Missing data indicator:* The group is not reported if no solid precipitation fell during the past 6 hours or if hail was the only form of solid precipitation.
Water equivalent of snow on the ground.	.....	X	Once daily at 18 UTC if the average snow depth (to the nearest inch) is 2 inches or more and staff is available.	Designated stations.	Designated stations.	*Format:* 933RRR. *Where:* ''933'' is the code group indicator and ''RRR'' is the water equivalent of snow on the ground reported in tenths of inches. *Example:* 933125. *Interpretation:* 12.5 inches water equivalent of snow on the ground. *Missing data indicator:* Not reported if no solid precipitation fell during the past 6 hours or if hail was the only form of solid precipitation.
Depth of snow on the ground.	.....	X	At 6-hrly synoptic times (00, 06, 12, and 18 UTC) and staff is available. See comments.	Designated stations.	Designated stations.	*Format:* 4/sss. *Where:* ''4/'' is the code group indicator for depth of snow on the ground at observation time. ''sss'' gives the snow depth encoded in whole inches with leading zeros. *Example:* 4/009. *Interpretation:* The snow depth at observation time was 9 inches. *Missing data indicator:* Not reported if the frozen precipitation was comprised exclusively of hail. *Comments:* Report at 00 and 12 UTC whenever there is more than a trace of snow on the ground and at 06 and 18 UTC if there is more than a trace of snow on wht ground and more than a trace of precipitation (water equivalent) occurred within the past 6 hours.

TABLE 1.—DESCRIPTION OF ELEMENTS REPORTED AS SUPPLEMENTARY DATA—Continued

Element	Type of report		When reported	Reported by		Format, example, comments
	SDO	SCD		WFO	Other NWS offices	
Synoptic total cloud cover and cloud types (low cloud base height; low cloud amount; low, middle, and high cloud types).	.....	X	At 6-hrly synoptic times (00, 06, 12, and 18 UTC) unless the sky is clear.	Designated stations.	.....	*Format:* $8NN_h\ C_L\ hC_M\ C_H$. *Reference:* FMH–2 paragraph 4.2.7 modified to include ''N'' (total cloud cover) as described in FHM–2 paragraph 4.2.2.1 and ''h'' (height of lowest cloud) as described in FMH–2 paragraph 4.2.1.3. *Where:* ''8'' is the code group indicator. ''N'' is total fraction of oktas (eighths) of the celestial dome covered by clouds, where ''9'' represents sky obscured by fog and/or other meteorological phenomena and ''/'' in the ''N'' position means cloud cover is indiscernible for reasons other than fog or other meteorological phenomena, or the observation was not made. N_h gives the total amount (oktas) of all C_L clouds. If there are no C_L clouds, N_h gives the total amount of all C_M clouds. Otherwise N_h=0. N_h=9 for sky obscured by fog and/or other meteorological phenomena. N_h=/ for cloud cover indiscernible for reasons other than fog or other meteorological phenomena, or if the observation is not made. C_L, C_M, and C_H are types of low, middle, and high clouds respectively. ''0'' is coded for clouds absent, except that ''/'' is coded in the cloud layer subfield(s) above on overcast layer if the types are not determinable. ''h'' gives the height with respect to the surface of the base of the lowest cloud seen. It is a single digit coded in accordance with FMH–2. Table 3–3. ''h'' and $C_L\ C_M\ C_H$ are coded with ''/'' if there is a total surface based obscuration which prevents an observation of the clouds. *Example:* 8220850. *Interpretation:* N=2 oktas total cloud cover. Scattered middle clouds (N_h=2 oktas cloud coverage and C_L=0) with bases between 7,000 and 8,000 ft AGL (h=8); no low clouds; middle clouds are altocumulus progressively invading the sky; no high clouds. *Missing data indicator:* The ''8'' group is not reported for clear skies.

Precipitation types			
Weather	Contraction	Weather	Contraction
Rain	R	Snow	S
Rain Showers.	RW	Snow Showers.	SW
Drizzle ...	L	Snow Pellets.	SP

Precipitation types			
Weather	Contraction	Weather	Contraction
Freezing Rain.	ZR	Snow Grains.	SG
Freezing Drizzle.	ZL	Ice Crystals.	IC

Precipitation types			
Weather	Contraction	Weather	Contraction
Ice Pellets.	IP	Hail	A
Ice Pellet Showers.	IPW	.....	

TABLE 2.—PRECIPITATION TYPES AND THEIR CONTRACTIONS

Obstructions to vision			
Obstruction	Contraction	Obstruction	Contraction
Volcanic ash.	VOLCANIC ASH.	Blowing Sand.	BN
Ice Fog ...	IF	Blowing Dust.	BD
Smoke	K	Blowing Spray.	BY
Blowing Snow.	BS	Fog	F
Ground Fog.	GF	Dust	D
Haze	H	.....	

Table 3.—Obstructions to Vision and their Contractions

Examples of Supplementary Data Reports

CAESCDCHS
TTAA00 KCHS DDHHMM
CHS SCD 1758 IP–/ 8872// 931024 933009 4/009

This SCD shows the occurrence of weather (ice pellets) along with coded remarks. 8872// indicates overcast low clouds (ragged shreds of stratus or cumulus associated with precipitation) with low cloud base height of 400–600 ft. 931024 represents a 6 hour snowfall amount of 2.4 inches. The water equivalent of snow on the ground was 0.9″. The snow depth (4/009) at time of observation was 9 inches.

PHLSCDPHL
TTAA00 KPHL DDHHMM
PHL SCD 0455 70050 400700045

This SCD, issued at midnight EST, is from a WFO which does not have a collocated ASOS. The 24-hour precipitation total (70050) was 0.50 inches water equivalent. The 24-hour maximum and minimum temperatures were 70°F and 45°F respectively.

BISSCDBIS
TTAA00 KBIS DDHHMM
BIS SCD 0755 98096

This SCD from a network sunshine duration station reports 96 minutes of sunshine for the previous calendar day.

STLSDOMCI
TTAA00 KMCI DDHHMM
MCI SDO 0642 IP–

This SDO reports the onset of light ice pellets.

STLSDOMCI
TTAA00 KMCI DDHHMM
MCI SDO 0729 END IP

This SDO reports the cessation of ice pellets.

PHLSDOACY
TTAA00 KACY DDHHMM
ACY SDO 0759 SNOINCR ½

This SDO indicates snow depth increase at a rate of more than 0.5 inches/hour. The snow depth increased 1 inch during the past hour. Two inches of snow were on the ground at observation time.

PHLSDOACY
TTAA00 KACY DDHHMM
ACY SDO 2036 HLSTO ¾

This SDO reports a hail occurrence with the largest observed hailstone size of ¾ inch.

SEASDOSMP
TTAA00 KSMP DDHHMM
SMP SDO 1756 END IP / RWU CAD LYR 140 OVC

This SDO was reported from a mountainous site where terrain is problematic. Ice pellets ended. Rain showers of unknown intensity were observed to the southwest. There was a significant overcast cloud layer based at 14,000 feet above the observer's ground level. The ''/ '' remarks separator separates decodable and nondecodable remarks.

DENSDODEN
TTAA00 KDEN DDHHMM
DEN SDO 1056 CLD BASES OBSCG MTNS W

This SDO was also reported from a mountainous site where terrain is problematic. Clouds were observed obscuring mountains to the west.

/D ANC SDO HHMM
ANC SDO 1310 IF=

This SDO shows the initiation of ice fog. Notice that a different communications header and message ending code (=) are used in Alaska.

/D ANC SDO HHMM
ANC SDO 1645 END IF=

This SDO terminates the ice fog event.

[FR Doc. 95–30246 Filed 12–12–95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–12–M

[I.D. 111595A]

Marine Mammals

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Receipt of application for a scientific research permit (P772#67).

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the Southwest Fisheries Science Center, NMFS, 8604 La Jolla Shores Drive, La Jolla, CA 92038 (Principal Investigators: Michael F. Tillman, Ph.D. and Rennie S. Holt, Ph.D.) has applied in due form for a permit to take Antarctic pinnipeds for purposes of scientific research.

DATES: Written comments must be received on or before January 12, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The application and related documents are available for review upon written request or by appointment in the following office(s):

Permits Division, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301/713–2289);

Director, Southwest Region, NMFS, 501 West Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802–4213 (310/980–4001).

Written data or views, or requests for a public hearing on this request, should be submitted to the Director, Office of Protected Resources, NMFS, NOAA, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1315 East-West Highway, Room 13130, Silver Spring, MD 20910, within 30 days of the publication of this notice. Those individuals requesting a hearing should set forth the specific reasons why a hearing on this particular request would be appropriate.

Concurrent with the publication of this notice in the Federal Register, the Secretary of Commerce is forwarding copies of this application to the Marine Mammal Commission and its Committee of Scientific Advisors.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The subject permit is requested under the authority of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1361 *et seq.*) and the Regulations Governing the Taking and Importing of Marine Mammals (50 CFR part 216).

The applicant proposes to conduct Level B harassment during census survey activities on Southern elephant seals (*Mirounga leonina*) and Antarctic fur seals (*Arctocephalus gazella*). Other animals that may be harassed are Crabeater seals (*Lobodon carcinophagus*), Leopard seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*), Ross seals (*Ommatophoca rossii*), and Weddell seals (*Leptonychotes weddellii*). During the 1996 season, up to 200 *A. gazella* will be captured, weighed and released during growth studies at Seal Island. Thereafter, seals may be captured/released up to 5 times per year for a total take of 500 animals. Up to 3,000 animals may be inadvertently harassed during these activities.

Dated: November 30, 1995.

Ann D. Terbush,

Chief, Permits and Documentation Division, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 95–30378 Filed 12–12–95; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 3510–22–F